

SENATE BILL 550

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37,
relative to interviews conducted by the department
of children's services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-406, is amended by
redesignating subsection (h) as subdivision (h)(1) and adding the following as subdivision (h)(2):

(2) If, in the course of an investigation, a representative of the department
interviews a child at the child's school, then a third party shall be present for the duration
of the interview. If the school employs a school resource officer (SRO) as defined by §
49-6-4202, then the SRO shall be the third party. If the school does not employ an SRO
or the SRO is unavailable, then a school counselor, school nurse, or other faculty
member shall be present. If no faculty member is available to witness the interview, then
the representative of the department shall make a video recording of the interview.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring
it.